



## MAJ. GEN. BAILEY TAKES CHARGE, FIRST BLACK COMMANDER OF HISTORIC 1ST MARINE DIVISION



Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey assumed command of Camp Pendleton's 1st Marine Division from Maj. Gen. Michael Regner during a ceremony on June 30 in California. Bailey is the first African American to command the 1st Marine Division the oldest, largest and most decorated division in the Marine Corps. "When I entered the Marine Corps, we didn't even have anyone ever reach the rank of staff sergeant," said Oscar Culp, Montford Point Marine of Oceanside. "To now

have a man commanding a division truly shows that America is a place where you can come from anywhere and reach the top." During a speech to family and friends, Bailey thanked several officers who provided guidance as he rose through the ranks. Bailey assumes command at a time of a draw-down of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and a reduction in the size of the Marine Corps.

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Image provided by the North County Times - Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, left, the outgoing commanding general of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, congratulates Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey during a changing-of-command ceremony.

## APPOINTMENT VALIDATION FOR MONTFORD MARINES



For Oscar Culp and the many members of the Montford Point Marine Association, the inalienable freedoms celebrated on Independence Day are not soon forgotten. Culp was one of many young African American men who volunteered for the Marine Corps during World War II, despite being denied many liberties that most U.S. citizens take for granted today. "People don't always understand that during World War II, black Americans in the military were fighting two wars," the 85-

year-old retired master gunnery sergeant said. "They were fighting the Japanese and the Germans, and they were also fighting a war within their own country for freedom." Last week, more than a dozen members of the San Diego and Los Angeles chapters of the Montford Point Marine Association were at Camp Pendleton to celebrate the appointment of Major General Ronald L. Bailey as the first black Marine to lead the base's 1st Marine Division. Bailey made a special point of tipping his cap to the Montford Point Marines, saying his ascension to command of the Marine Corps' most storied combat division came in part because of the legacy of those men. In a few weeks, Culp will join Montford Point Marines from around the country for an August 26 parade in their honor in Washington, D.C. The parade was organized by Gen. James Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, who said he intends to make sure every Marine knows the story of the men from Montford. "The Marines who served at Montford Point are a part of the rich legacy of our Corps," Amos said in an interview. "They answered our nation's call at a time when our society was deeply divided along racial lines. As such, many of their contributions went unrecognized and many times they were not given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots." For Culp, Bailey's appointment and the numerous other black

generals in the Marine Corps today are validation for the sacrifices of his generation. "It shows how far we have come," Culp said.

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## HEROES

### LANCE CPL. EARNS BRONZE STAR



Lance Cpl. Edward Huth has earned a Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy while serving as a machine gunner in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On July 27, 2010, Huth sustained a gunshot wound to his right shoulder when his patrol came under heavy enemy fire in Marjah. Huth moved his weapon to his left arm and continued to engage the enemy with accurate fire. Huth was eventually moved to a medical evacuation site, where he saw another Marine who was wounded a short distance away. Without hesitation, Huth moved 100 meters under intense enemy fire and helped to move

the wounded Marine to cover."I just did what anyone else would have done," said Huth, a 2002 graduate of Jackson Memorial High School. "I was there at the right time and, thank God, everyone lived. I am happy [about the award], but there are other Marines who do this every day and don't get recognized, so this is for them, too." The Bronze Star Medal is awarded for heroism or for meritorious achievement in ground combat.

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### TO PROTECT UNIT, GUNNY DRAWS ENEMY FIRE



Gunnery Sgt. Chad Miller was honored with a Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device for Valor on June 29. Miller, who is with 10th Marine Regiment, was recognized at a



ceremony at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was honored with the star for his actions during Operation Enduring Freedom on September 8, 2009. On that day, Miller and his fellow Marines were attacked by insurgents. In an effort to protect his unit, Miller gave away his position and put himself in harm's way.

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## MARSOC CORPSMAN RECEIVES SILVER STAR



A Navy Corpsman previously assigned to Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) aboard Camp Lejeune received a Silver Star, one of the most prestigious awards for combat valor, at a closed ceremony last week. Petty Officer First Class Amilcar Rodriguez, with 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, was honored for heroism during a deployment in Bala Morghab, Afghanistan, according to MARSOC officials. On Nov. 6, 2009 from a rooftop watch position, Rodriguez and an Afghan partner saw two Afghan commandos and a Marine from the Special Operations Team shot down by a sniper. Rodriguez began firing back at the enemy position, exposing his position to the sniper to do so. He was knocked to the ground by three shots from an enemy sniper, but was determined to reach the fallen Marine. Even while wounded and being dragged to safety, the corpsman continued to instruct teammates on how to treat the wounds of the other fallen Marine and

later assisted another medic in treating the wounded, according to his citation. "The actions that we're recognizing today add significance to the history of the Navy and to the history of the Corps," said MARSOC commanding officer Major General Paul Lefebvre, who called Rodriguez's actions in combat exemplary. Rodriguez is now a trauma instructor at the Naval Special Operation Medical Institute, a detachment of the Army Joint Special Operations Training Center, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

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# NEWS

## MARINES HELPING AFGHANS DO THINGS THEIR WAY

Marine advisers attached to Regimental Combat Team 8 in Delaram 2, a U.S. base, are trying to turn an Afghan army brigade and an Afghan police department into an effective fighting force. One small group of sixteen advisers, commanded by Capt. Sean Gobin, is assisting an Afghan brigade headquarters company. The United States has been helping the Afghans develop a national army for years; however, differences in culture, work ethic, and language constantly hamper the Marines' ability to help the Afghans, who hold centuries of allegiance to their towns or tribes. The most sophisticated and well trained warriors in the history of the world are up against an almost insurmountable social barrier. Nevertheless, Gobin and his Marines are showing the Afghan people a nearly preternatural patience and kindness as they advise them seven days a week on many elements of military organization, from communications and operations to truck repair.



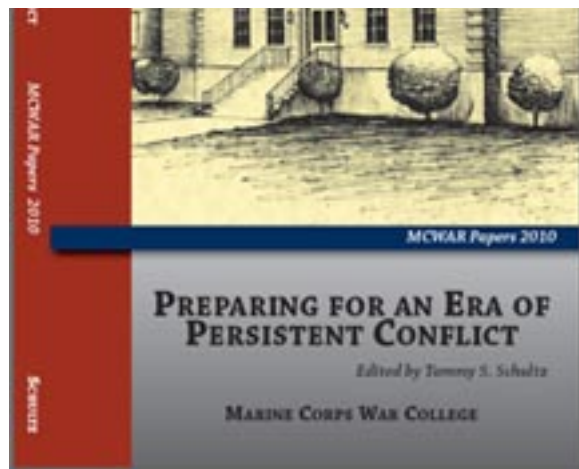
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**See Also: Regional Command South-West weekly news round-up**

## WAR COLLEGE PAPERS RELEASED



The Marine Corps War College recently published the first edition of The MCWAR Papers. Like its older counterparts, The McNair Papers (National Defense University) and The Newport Papers (Naval War College), this booklet is an anthology of student scholarly writings on strategic subjects of national importance. The The MCWAR Papers first edition is entitled Preparing For An Era of Persistent Conflict. The chapters address a wide



range of topical issues to include building civilian capacity, security assistance, and piracy. Given the abundance of quality research projects being developed by MCWAR students, the intent is for The MCWAR Papers to become an annual (or at a minimum biennial) publication. Hard copies of the journal have been distributed to a select group of interested Marine Corps leaders as well as numerous subject matter experts. Additional copies will be mailed to thought leaders throughout the Corps as well as other interested Services and Interagency organizations.

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## 31ST MEU DEPARTS OKINAWA HEADED TO AUSTRALIA

On June 28, Marines and Sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked the USS Essex (LHD 2) and USS Germantown (LSD 42), to prepare for exercise Talisman Sabre 2011. Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise, so this will be the first time most Marines with the MEU will participate in it. That capability has proven necessary as the MEU has participated in five humanitarian aid missions over the last three years, including involvement in Operation Tomodachi after a the recent earthquake and tsunami struck



Northeast Japan in March. The 31st MEU looks forward to the partnership with Australia and their military forces, said Colonel Andrew MacMannis, the commanding officer of the 31st MEU. This exercise increases our readiness and advances regional security in the Pacific. We look forward to validating our combat readiness and interoperability as part of a combined joint task force. In addition to being the first time many 31st MEU Marines and Sailors will set foot on Australia, this event will also make history as occurring during the 60th anniversary of the Australia, New Zealand, United States security treaty.

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## MOTHER WILL RUN RACE IN MEMORY OF SON



Joy Eastman of Moose Pass, Alaska, celebrated Independence Day by running the Mount Marathon in honor of her son Gunnery Sgt. Chris Eastman, who was killed in a bomb explosion in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on July 18. Eastman, mother of eight, made her race debut on July 4 at the age of 66. Although the training was demanding and required discipline, it's what helped her get through a rough time. "Six weeks after Chris died, my sister died, so it was really hard," she said. "I think just making yourself get out every day, I don't know, you still think about it when you're running, but it just helped because I had to go out and practice every day. It gave me something to do every morning when I got up."

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## DOD LAUNCHES SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP



The Defense of Department launched a program to expand career opportunities for military spouses worldwide. On June 29, during a U.S. Chamber of Commerce ceremony, the Military Spouse Employment Partnership was unveiled. The partnership encompasses more than 70 employers who have committed to opening their doors to military spouse employment. In remarks at the event, Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, lauded military spouses for their service and sacrifice as

they juggle households, children, volunteer work and jobs -- many times in the midst of deployments. If you're looking for hard-working, highly skilled and educated, dedicated employees, Biden said, our military spouses are precisely the employees you need. The partnership program evolved from the Army Spouse Employment Program, through which more than 100,000 military spouses have been hired since 2003, explained Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. As [this program] continues to grow, just think about what this partnership can do for our spouses, for our military, he said.



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## WOUNDED MARINE (AND PARENTS) STILL STAND TALL



Charlene Bruce told the *Arizona Republic* she had a dream earlier this year in which her mother promised from heaven to watch over Charlene's son, Robert. He planned for a military life from the time was 10 years old, at first thinking that he would become a Navy SEAL and then choosing the Marine Corps after his three years in high-school ROTC. Robert served in several countries including Afghanistan and Iraq. While deployed with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment,

known as "Dark Horse," Robert was wounded by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He was flown to Germany and then transferred to Maryland. "We met up in Bethesda (at Walter Reed Army Medical Center)," she said. "In my head I was telling my mother, 'I thought you were going to protect him.' Then I saw how much worse other kids had it and I told her, 'Thank you.'" Robert grew up in Mesa, and his parents threw a party for him on July 3 at the Rockin' R Ranch. He would go along with the event only if it were used to raise money for the Semper Fi Fund, which assists injured Marines and their families.

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## A VOTE YOU CAN BE PROUD OF



Here's a chance to help Purple Heart Family Support (PHFS) win a \$25K grant from the Pepsi Refresh Everything Challenge. PHFS needs to be in the top 15 to win a grant, and right now they're at #11, but other groups will have devoted supporters weighing in. To help PHFS, register with Pepsi at the link below. Or you can skip registering with Pepsi if you vote using your Facebook profile--which has the added benefit of sharing your vote with your Facebook friends. Every day in July, either at the website or on Facebook, you can vote for Purple Heart Family Support, and also text 107451 to



73774.

[Click here to register](#)

## FOR SOME, DECISION TO ENLIST OFFERS DIRECTION

Less than one percent of Americans serve in the Military. In the series Who Serves, NPR states some of those who decide to serve are looking for direction, while others are inspired by a sense of patriotism or a family member who served in an earlier war. Dave Kroha, 23-years-old, dropped out of high school after an argument with his wrestling coach. After bumming around for a little while, his mother gave him the idea to go out and fight for his country. He decided to follow the advice and joined the Marine Corps. Across from Kroha sits Lance Cpl. Andrew Zemore,



"I got into a lot of trouble back in the day ... I had to make a change, you know what I'm saying?" Zemore says. "I didn't really know where to go. So like, push came to shove and I had to do something. I kind of just fell into the Marine Corps." Zemore says when his time in the Marine Corps is up, he'd like to become a contractor, training Marines how to spot roadside bombs. Kroha thinks he's now mature enough to go back to college.

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## THANK YOU

### 'NOTHING CAN KEEP A MARINE OR BEARCAT DOWN'

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Charles "Dillon" Miller recently returned home to recover from a wound to the chest during vicious combat. On Wednesday, June 30, the Paso Robles Department of Emergency



Services and Cal Fire of San Luis Obispo County teamed up to honor Miller with an old-fashioned hero's welcome home. "This is too much, I am so lucky to be home," said Miller, who was greeted by a large crowd, many of the attendees being veterans. "A lot of guys don't make it this far."



Miller, overwhelmed by the warm welcome, went on to say, "What I missed most was being away from family all the time. It is hard." Miller was wounded in action during a firefight in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He intends to recover during this time and is expecting to deploy next June.

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## RYAN'S PROJECT: HONORING INJURED AND DISABLED MARINE VETERANS



Since 1925, Marines annually honor the birth of the Corps at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, no matter where they serve, in any clime or place. Now, thanks to Ryan's Project, more wounded Marines will be able to attend the Ball each year. Ryan's Project is the brainchild of Douglas Robinson, father of Sgt. Ryan Matthew Robinson, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, H/Q Battery, who died in 2008 as a result of a traumatic brain injury he received from an improvised explosive device while serving in Iraq in 2006. Douglas Robinson, recalls the importance this meant to his son, who said to him, "Wouldn't it be cool if there was some kind of an organization that got these guys out of their beds, paid their way, provided everything they would need ... and got them to the Marine Corps Ball ... and let them know they had not been forgotten?" Sgt. Robinson understood the

significance of the Marine Corps Ball and was concerned for injured vets that didn't have the resources to attend. He wanted to let them know they still belong; sacrifices they made were not in vain. Douglas and his wife Bonnie Robinson, moved by their son's desire to support wounded Marines, took up his idea and started Ryan's Project in 2010. In this they honor their son and carry out his vision.

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## SEMPER FI FUND PASSES \$50 MILLION MARK

In the early days of the Iraq War, Karen Guenther, a nurse and Marine wife, was deeply moved by the sacrifices of the first wounded Marines and sailors who came home from the war. As her husband marched on Baghdad, Guenther teamed up with other military spouses and hospital employees at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to run welcome home events at the naval hospital. They put together gift bags for wounded troops and their families. They helped families who couldn't afford to stay with their wounded servicemembers. They raised money to buy a special van for a Marine Lance Cpl. who had been paralyzed from the neck down. This week, the group that Guenther started, the Semper Fi Fund, announced that it has passed a remarkable milestone. In less than seven years since the group officially launched in late 2004, they have raised and given away more than \$50 million to wounded servicemembers and their families. "We started with just \$500," Guenther said. "My first book was 'Nonprofits for Dummies.' We taught ourselves. It's amazing. ... We never envisioned a big nonprofit. We were just helping that right in front of us." The Semper Fi Fund helps wounded servicemembers and families with immediate financial needs, along with ongoing things like home modifications, specialized transportation such as the Marine's van, and other equipment.



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